

# **MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF ELECTRICAL APPEALS**

**April 14, 2009 - 3:00 p.m.**

**OFFICE OF CENTRAL INSPECTION  
CITY HALL, 455 NORTH MAIN  
OCI CONFERENCE ROOM, 7th FLOOR**

Chairman Roy Meinhardt called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm, with Board members, John Whittit, Dale Johnson, Harold Ragland, Dave Urban and Secretary Tom Kerschen present. Also present were City attorney Jeff Vanzandt and electrical inspectors Steve Schauner and Chris Nordick. Board members Shane Chapman and Scott Alder were absent.

The minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting were read. Board member Whittit made a motion the minutes be approved as written, it was seconded by Board member Ragland and approved.

The recent examination results from Prometric for electrical examinations administered by their office for City of Wichita approved applicants were presented to the Board. The results were as follows:

| <b>APPLICANT<br/>NAME</b> | <b>APPLICANT<br/>NUMBER</b> | <b>EXAMINATION<br/>CLASSIFICATION</b> | <b>EXAMINATION<br/>RESULT</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Patrick Stephan           | 2771                        | Master                                | Failed                        |
| Patrick Jarnagin          | 8140                        | Master                                | Failed                        |
| Nicholas Cordt            | 1979                        | Journeyman                            | Passed                        |
| Donald Purvis             | 3418                        | Journeyman                            | Failed                        |
| Fred Green                | 6703                        | Journeyman                            | Failed                        |
| Keith Keener              | 4472                        | Journeyman                            | Failed                        |

Six (6) Master Electrician, fourteen (14) Journeyman Electrician and one (1) Residential Wireman applications were reviewed for approval to be administered the appropriate examination for certification. The results were as follows:

| <b>NAME</b>     | <b>NUMBER</b> | <b>CLASSIFICATION</b> | <b>ACTION</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Rafael Rojas    | 4210          | Master                | Approved      |
| Ryan Bauroth    | 1435          | Master                | Approved      |
| Brian Geist     | 0991          | Master                | Approved      |
| Randy Weerts    | 0288          | Master                | Approved      |
| Paul Cooper     | 4020          | Master                | Approved      |
| Larry Payne     | 1576          | Master                | Approved      |
| Lauro Aguirre   | 6477          | Journeyman            | Approved      |
| John Cushenbery | 7168          | Journeyman            | Approved      |
| Damon Dial      | 7994          | Journeyman            | Approved      |
| Zaid Labidi     | 6353          | Journeyman            | Approved      |
| James Schulte   | 5181          | Journeyman            | Denied        |
| William Baxter  | 1092          | Journeyman            | Approved      |

|                  |      |              |          |
|------------------|------|--------------|----------|
| Adam Shields     | 2816 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| David Barton     | 1771 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| Benjamin Shields | 2281 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| Jerad Shields    | 1128 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| John Flynn       | 1211 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| Fred Green       | 6703 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| Ricardo Garcia   | 1048 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| James Garcia     | 8112 | Journeyman   | Approved |
| Ryan Hively      | 6127 | Res. Wireman | Approved |

Under part A of the new business section of the agenda, the Board welcomed Butch Kretchmar and Bob Zehring, representatives from the Independent Electrical Contractors. Mr. Kretchmar asked Board to consider a possible amendment to the ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) requirements. The 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) removed the exceptions that did not require GFCI protection for appliances installed in garages and unfinished basements when they had a single receptacle installed. The 2008 NEC also removed the exception that did not require GFCI protection for receptacles in garage ceilings. Mr. Kretchmar and Mr. Zehring addressed concerns of the GFCI protecting a garage door opener receptacle, tripped from a power surge do to a storm and stranding a customer outside in the weather because the garage door will not open. They also addressed concerns that a GFCI protecting a receptacle that has a cord and plugged freezer located in an unfinished basement, may trip without the customer's knowledge and ruin the food in the freezer.

The Board thanked Mr. Kretchmar and Mr. Zehring for attending and told them they would be notified in writing by Secretary Kerschen of their decision.

Part B of the new business section of the agenda was removed from the agenda.

Under part C of the new business section of the agenda, Secretary Kerschen explained he attended a seminar presented by Southwire, the manufacturer of the new MCAP cable. This MC cable utilizes a bare aluminum conductor that is installed inside the cable and is in contact with the outer sheath throughout the length of the cable. This cable does not have a green insulated conductor installed within the cable as this method allows the metal outer sheath to be classified as the grounding conductor. This aluminum conductor, under most installations, is cut off before the connector is installed. Its purpose is just to maintain conductivity of the outer sheath. The cable is listed by U.L. for the outer sheath to be the grounding method.

The Board discussed this cable as the City ordinance Title 19 states "All commercial and industrial wiring conductors rated two hundred amperes or less, including all service conductors required to be installed by the licensed electrical contractor, shall be copper. For parallel conductors, each individual conductor of a parallel set shall meet the requirements of this section. Parallel conductors are not to be considered a single conductor. Exception. Feeder circuit and branch circuit conductors rated one hundred amperes or more, may be aluminum or copper-clad aluminum, provided panelboards or disconnect switches served by such circuits are marked by the manufacturer as being suitable for aluminum or copper-clad aluminum termination".

The Board agreed that as long as the aluminum wire was cut off in the connector and did not terminate in a panelboard or box, it would not violate the Ordinance as it just maintains the conductivity of the outer metal sheath.

At this time the Board continued the discussion of GFCI requirements. Chairman Meinhardt asked Mr. Vanzandt if the Board was permitted to change the requirement in a policy issued by the Board or if it would require an amendment to Title 19. Mr. Vanzandt said it would require an amendment to Title 19 as it would be lessening the minimum requirements of the adopted NEC. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided to table the issue until the next meeting.

Chairman Meinhardt asked if there was any other new business. Secretary Kerschen presented the Board with a policy the Office of Central Inspection (OCI) is working on in regards to continuing education. Secretary Kerschen explained that OCI is trying to write one policy that will be consistent with all trades, electrical, mechanical & plumbing. The Board reviewed the policy and agreed it was fair and maintained the integrity of the requirements for continuing education.

With no other business to conduct, Board member Whittit made a motion to adjourn. Board member Urban seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

The time was 4:21 pm.

Tom Kerschen, Secretary,  
Board of Electrical Appeals